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California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

OFFICE OF AIDS (OA)
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

Management Memorandum
Memorandum Number: 2019-23

Date: OCTOBER 4, 2019
TO: ADAP ENROLLMENT WORKERS
SUBJECT: MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT

The purpose of this memo is to inform enrollment workers of the Medicare Part D open enrollment period and requirements.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

The Medicare Part D open enrollment period for 2020 coverage is **October 15, 2019 through December 7, 2019**. During this open enrollment period, Medicare eligible beneficiaries may enroll in either a Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD). Those who are enrolled in a plan may change to a different PDP or MAPD during this open enrollment period if they were not satisfied with their previous plan.

Medicare eligible beneficiaries who miss the open enrollment period may have to wait until the next open enrollment period to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan, and may face a federal late enrollment penalty unless they qualify for a special enrollment period. Individuals who qualify for full Extra Help/Low Income Subsidy (LIS) can enroll in, or change plans once a month, anytime during the year regardless of the open enrollment period. For more information on Medicare Part D benefits and open enrollment, please refer to www.medicare.gov.

Full Extra Help/LIS Individuals

Individuals who are deemed 100 percent Extra Help/LIS (including those with both Medicare and Medi-Cal with no share of cost) must enroll in a Benchmark Plan. A list of the 2020 Benchmark Plans is forthcoming. Once enrolled in a Benchmark Plan, ADAP will cover the full cost of the individual's Medicare Part D copayments for ADAP formulary drugs. If the individual chooses to enroll in a Standard Medicare Part D Plan, ADAP will only be able to pay up to the prescription copay associated with Benchmark Plans. This copayment restriction is due to both state and federal mandates that ADAP be the payer of last resort. The client will be responsible



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for paying any difference in the higher copayment amount due under a Standard Medicare Part D Plan. Full Extra Help/LIS individuals will not be eligible for the Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program as their premiums will be covered by Medicare once they enroll in a Benchmark Plan.

OA Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program Eligibility Requirements

The MDPP Program pays monthly prescription drug premiums for eligible clients. Please review the eligibility requirements below to see if your client may qualify:

- Client must be enrolled in ADAP and be enrolled in a Medicare Part D Plan
- Client must not receive 100 percent assistance from Medicare's Extra Help/Full LIS
- Client must not receive full-scope Medi-Cal

Annual Re Enrollment for MDPP Program Clients

When the client is due for their annual ADAP re-enrollment, clients enrolled in the MDPP Program must also complete the Client Attestation Form indicating that they would like Medicare Part D premium assistance.

OA will send a letter to MDPP Program clients informing them of the open enrollment period on October 7, 2019. The letter is attached to this memo for your review.

How to Submit a MDPP Application for a Client

For complete MDPP applications received by February 29, 2020, MDPP will pay back to the 2020 coverage effective month. For those applications received on or after March 1, 2020, MDPP will pay back to the first of the month in which the application was completed.

In the ADAP Enrollment System (AES) under the 'Insurance Assistance' tab, indicate that the client wants to enroll in the MDPP Program:

1. Create a MDPP Program work item in the AES and upload a completed Client Attestation Form indicating the client is applying for the MDPP Program

OR

2. On the ADAP Fax Coversheet, check the box for 'New Medicare Part D Application and fax to (844)421-8008. Faxing the application instead of utilizing the AES will delay processing. **This option should be a last resort.**

Once the client has enrolled in MDPP, the MDPP Program will pay the client's Medicare Part D insurance premiums excluding any late enrollment penalty (LEP) fees. For 2020 coverage, ADAP's Insurance Benefits Manager, Pool Administrator's Inc. (PAI), will verify the client's Medicare Part D plan and premium information with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. New clients or existing clients switching plans will be required to make their own premium payments until they receive a letter from PAI stating that the Medicare Part D premium payment has been sent on their behalf.

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Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) Plan Beneficiaries

If the client is enrolled in a MAPD plan, the client must continue to pay their monthly medical and outpatient (Part B and C) premiums. MDPP cannot pay these premiums; therefore, the client will be responsible for that portion of their premium payment. It is important that the client verifies the medical and outpatient premium amount with their health plan and pay that monthly amount. If the client does not, they may be terminated from the plan.

Medigap Premium Payments for the MDPP Program

During Open Enrollment, completed Medigap applications submitted on or before February 29, 2020 will be paid back to the first of the coverage effective month of the Medigap policy if the client is enrolled in the MDPP program.

For further information regarding Medigap, please reference [Management Memorandum 2018-22: Implementation of Medigap Premium Payments and Medical Out-of Pocket \(MOOP\) Benefits for the Medicare Part D Premium Payment \(MDPP\) Program.](#)

If you have any questions about the information covered in this memo, please contact your MDPP Advisor. The most current MDPP Advisor list is available on the OA website at: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_adap_hipp_staffassignments.aspx

Thank you,



Sandra Robinson, MBA
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California Department of Public Health

Enclosures:

- 1) 2020 Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Client Letter



SUSAN FANELLI
Acting Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



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Dear Client:

You are receiving this notice because you have enrolled in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program. This program pays your Medicare Part D insurance premiums. The 2020 Medicare Part D open enrollment period is October 15, 2019 through December 7, 2019 for coverage that starts on January 1, 2020. Existing clients who have enrolled in CDPH's MDPP Program **do not need** to submit a new MDPP Program application during open enrollment, unless your Medicare Part D plan has changed from the previous enrollment year. The program will continue to make payments to your existing Part D plan as long as you continue to meet the program eligibility requirements below.

Individuals who qualify for full Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) can enroll in or change plans anytime during the year. For more information on Medicare Part D benefits and open enrollment, please refer to www.medicare.gov.

MDPP Program Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive MDPP Program Benefits, you must:

- Be enrolled in CDPH's Medication Assistance Program
- Be enrolled in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan*
- Not be receiving 100 percent assistance from Medicare Extra Help/Full LIS
- Not be receiving full-scope Medi-Cal

***Please Note:** Your plan must be from a participating Medicare Part D provider with a Part D monthly premium. For a listing of all participating plans, please visit: www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx. If you have any questions regarding Medicare Part D, you may contact Medicare at (800) 633-4227.

Annual MDPP Re-enrollment

During annual re-enrollment for the CDPH Medication and Insurance Assistance Programs, you must complete the Client Attestation Form indicating that you would like MDPP assistance. Please remember that you must continue to complete your annual re-enrollment and six-month recertification with CDPH's Medication Assistance Program.

Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD) Beneficiaries

If you have enrolled in a MAPD plan, you must continue to pay your monthly medical and outpatient (Part B and C) premiums. We cannot pay these premiums; therefore, you are responsible for that

portion of your premium payment. It is important that you verify your medical and outpatient premium amount with your health plan and pay that monthly amount. If you do not, you may be terminated from the plan.

MDPP Program Enhanced Benefits

The MDPP Program expanded its benefits to include payments of Medigap premiums and related Medical-Out-Of-Pocket (MOOP) outpatient claims as of June 14, 2018.

All MDPP clients are eligible to receive assistance with MOOP outpatient claims.

Medigap is a supplemental health insurance policy that covers health care costs that traditional Medicare does not cover, such as co-payments, co-insurance, and deductibles. If you are enrolled in Medicare Parts A, B, and D, and have a Medigap premium of at least \$1, you may be able to receive Medigap premium assistance through MDPP.

Refunds

If the Social Security Administration (SSA) automatically deducts your monthly Medicare Part D premium payments, you will have to contact your health plan to request direct billing and contact SSA at (800) 772-1213 to stop your automatic deductions after confirmation that the CDPH MDPP Program has sent payment to your Medicare Part D Plan.

If you are enrolled in a MAPD plan, you will have to contact SSA at (800) 772-1213 to stop your automatic deductions for your Part D premium, after confirmation that the CDPH MDPP Program has sent payment to the plan.

For more information about the MDPP Program, please contact your local enrollment worker or the ADAP Call Center at (844) 421-7050.